

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----012308Z 018234 /73
O O 012152Z APR 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7105
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05846

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG, GW, PFOR, OVIP (SADAT, PRESIDENT ANWAR)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT SADAT

REF: BONN 5629 (NOTAL)

1. FONOFF (BOECKER) HAS BRIEFED US ON THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF SADAT'S VISIT TO THE FRG. THE BRIEFING WAS BASED ON A COMPLETE READING OF THE NOTES OF SADAT'S CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SCHEEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, AND AN INCOMPLETE READING OF HIS TALKS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. IF A MORE DETAILED READING OF THE CHANCELLOR'S NOTES REVEALS ANYTHING NEW, BOECKER WILL GIVE IT TO US TOMORROW.

2. GENERAL IMPRESSIONS: BOECKER BELIEVES SADAT'S PURPOSE IN COMING TO THE FRG AND FRANCE WAS TO CONVINCE THE EGYPTIAN PUBLIC WHO EGYPT'S TRUE FRIENDS ARE. HE ALSO WISHES TO FURTHER THE IMAGE OF EGYPT AS A PRO-WESTERN NATION. SADAT CONDUCTED NO DETAILED BUSINESS IN BONN NOR SAID ANYTHING REALLY NEW ON THE MIDDLE EAST. HE DID MENTION REPEATEDLY THAT HE HAS
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FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES. BOECKER HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SADAT WANTED THE GERMANS TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO US. IN ALL HIS CONVERSATIONS SADAT PRESENTED HIMSELF AS A VERY SINCERE PERSON AND STRESSED THAT HE WANTS A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT ON AN HONORABLE BASIS.

3. IN THE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SCHEEL, SADAT SAID THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY OPTIMISTICALLY IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS. HE CALLED THE STATEMENT ADVOCATING A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS REVOLUTIONARY. HE CITED AS POSITIVE SIGNS THE FACT THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD STOPPED DELIVERY OF CONCUSSION BOMBS TO ISRAEL AND THAT ISRAELI EXPLOITATION OF ARAB UNDERWATER OIL HAD BEEN STOPPED THROUGH AMERICAN INTERVENTION. SADAT TOLD SCHEEL THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD MADE A POSITIVE IMPRESSION ON HIM AND HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE SECRETARY IS AN "HONEST MAN." HE CLAIMED THAT ASAD OF SYRIA ADMITTED AT THE RIAD SUMMIT THAT SADAT HAD BEEN RIGHT IN CONCLUDING THE SINAI AGREEMENT. HUSSEIN HAS ALSO FALLEN INTO LINE.

4. SADAT STRESSED TO SCHEEL THAT THE TIME FOR A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT IS COMING CLOSER AND THE PROSPECTS ARE MORE FAVORABLE. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS GIVEN THE MIDDLE EAST HIS FIRST PRIORITY. IF THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO ASSUME ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, A SETTLEMENT IS POSSIBLE. SADAT HAD NOTHING NEW TO SAY ABOUT THE SOVIET POSITION, BUT HE TOLD SCHEEL THAT HE HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS OF THE USSR AND THE US ARE FAIRLY CLOSE.

5. SADAT SAID THAT HE HAD AGREED THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE SECOND HALF OF 1977 BECAUSE HE HAD CONFIDENCE IN SECRETARY VANCE.

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ALL CONCERNED PARTIES MUST TAKE PART IN GENEVA. THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE FRG, SHOULD LEND THEIR MORAL SUPPORT TO THE ARABS AND INFLUENCE ISRAEL IN A MODERATE DIRECTION. LATER IN THE CONVERSATION HE CALLED FOR WESTERN PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AS OPPOSED TO INFLUENCE. WHEN HE SPOKE ABOUT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA, SADAT DID NOT REFER TO THE PLO.

6. SADAT REFERRED TO THE DRAFT EC STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLEEAST OF JANUARY 31 AND TOLD SCHEEL THAT HE HOPED THE EC WOULD PUBLISH THAT STATEMENT SOON.

7. SADAT PROFESSED TO BE RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT EGYPT'S ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE CLAIMED THAT EGYPT HAS RECEIVED \$500 MILLION IN ROYALTIES FROM THE SUEZ

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CANAL SO FAR IN 1977. HE ANTICIPATES THIS WILL INCREASE. EGYPT IS PRODUCING ONE MILLION BARRELS OF OIL A DAY. THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS HAVE PUT ONE AND ONE-HALF BILLION DOLLARS AT THE DISPOSAL OF EGYPT TO COVER SHORT TERM DEBTS (BOECKER THOUGHT THE NOTETAKER MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN AND THE ACTUAL FIGURE IS TWO AND ONE-HALF BILLION DOLLARS).

8. IN HIS TALK WITH GENSCHER SADAT ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT HIS TRIP TO ISRAEL. GENSCHER EMPHASIZED HIS BELIEF THAT THE ISRAELI LEADERSHIP WANTS PEACE. THERE WAS A LONG DISCUSSION OVER WHAT THE LINK WOULD BE BETWEEN THE PALISTINIAN HOMELAND ON THE WESTERN BANK AND JORDAN. GENSCHER POINTED OUT THAT THE CLOSER THE LINK WAS, THE EASIER IT WOULD BE TO OVERCOME ISRAELI RESISTANCE. SADAT REPLIED THAT HE FAVORS A LINK, "BE IT A FEDERATION, CONFEDERATION, OR A UNITED ARAB STATE."

9. SADAT INFORMED GENSCHER ABOUT A RECENT CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH ARAFAT. ARAFAT BELIEVES THAT THE LINK BETWEEN THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND AND JORDAN
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SHOULD BE PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED ONLY AFTER THE

COMPLETION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. SADAT HAD INSISTED TO ARAFAT THAT THE LINK SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC BEFORE GENEVA IN ORDER TO "TAKE THE WIND OUT OF THE SAILS OF THE ISRAELIS."

10. SADAT SAID THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON HE WILL SUGGEST THAT THE UNITED STATES TAKE UP CONTACTS WITH THE PALESTINIANS AND IF POSSIBLE OPEN UP A DIALOGUE WITH ARAFAT. SUCH A STEP WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR ARAFAT AND THE PALESTINIANS TO ASSUME A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE. IT WOULD HELP TO MOVE THE PALESTINIANS IN THE DIRECTION OF MODERATION AND RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST.

11. IN A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA, SADAT EXPLAINED THAT HE IS OPPOSED TO A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION BECAUSE IN SUCH A DELEGATION HE WOULD LOSE HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION. SYRIA, THE SPONSOR OF THIS CONCEPT, WOULD DOMINATE THE NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH ITS USE OF POPULAR SLOGANS. THE PLO WOULD ALSO LIKE THIS SOLUTION. SADAT SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE PLO WOULD AGREE TO BE REPRESENTED IN A JOINT PALESTINIAN/JORDANIAN DELEGATION.

12. IN HIS TALK WITH CHANCELOR SCHMIDT, SADAT REPEATED WHAT HE HAD SAID TO GENSCHER ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA. HE AND SCHMIDT EXPLORED AT LENGTH THE VARIOUS FORMULAS.

13. IN A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SCHMIDT FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING, SADAT EMPHASIZED THAT 1977 IS THE YEAR OF DECISION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS THE YEAR IN WHICH A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT MUST BE REACHED. HE SAID THAT THE MEDITERRANEAN MUST BE A SEA OF PEACE. HE
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THEN SAID THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, QUADHAFI WAS WORKING FOR THE SOVIETS. HE THEN REFERRED TO THE SITUATION- IN ZAIRE AND ETHIOPIA, CITING THEM AS EXAMPLES OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. FOR HIS PART, SCHMIDT DECLARED HIS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. HE ASSERTED THAT THE FORM MUST BE AGREED IN PREPARATORY TALKS.

14. SCHMIDT TOLD SADAT OF THE WILLINGNESS OF THE FRG TO EXTEND DM 250 MILLION IN AID TO EGYPT IN 1977 (BONN 5663). EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF ECONOMICS AL-SAYIH MET THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 1ST WITH FOREIGN

OFFICE STATE MINISTER HAMM-BRUECHER IN ORDER TO HOLD
A MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION. DURING THIS
MEETING NOTHING OF IMPORTANCE WAS DISCUSSED. AL-SAYIH
MADE A PRO FORMA PLEA FOR MORE ASSISTANCE, BUT
BOECKER BELIEVES THAT HE WAS QUITE HAPPY WITH
THE DM 250 MILLION. THE COMMISSION WILL MEET AGAIN
ON THE EXPERT LEVEL AFTER THE MEETING OF THE CONSUL-
TATIVE GROUP IN PARIS ON MAY 11 IN ORDER TO REVIEW
PROJECTS AND OTHER TECHNICAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE
LIMIT TO THE EXTENSION OF EXPORT GUARANTEES.
STOESSEL

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